

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 177385
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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
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UNCLAS STATE 177385

USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM,SOPN

SUBJECT: JULY 13 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 177385

1. THE OPENING MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS
VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO, REPORTED
HENRY BRADSHAW OF WASHINGTON STAR FROM GENEVA, WAS SHORT
IN ORDER FOR THE SOVIETS TO HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER U.S.
POSITION BEFORE RESPONDING. ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID
THAT VANCE WOULD INSIST TO SOVIET DELEGATION THAT NEW SALT

AGREEMENT LEAVE OPEN OPTION FOR U.S. TO DEPLOY NEW ICBM'S AT MULTIPLE LAUNCHING POINTS. TEXT STATES THAT PRESENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL END JULY 13. ACCORDING TO BRADSHER, A KEY U.S. SOURCE CALLED THIS ROUND OF TALKS "DOOMED TO NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS," ALTHOUGH THIS MEETING WAS DESIRABLE JUST TO AVOID A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN IN THE TALKS, STAR REPORTS.

2. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES, ALSO REPORTING ON SALT DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN VANCE AND GROMYKO, STATED THAT SECOND MEETING LASTED MORE THAN FOUR HOURS IN AN "EFFORT TO NARROW DIFFERENCES BLOCKING A NEW TREATY LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS." VANCE THEN EXPRESSED TO GROMYKO

PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCERN OVER ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY, THE SOVIET DISSIDENT ON TRIAL FOR TREASON. ACCORDING TO TEXT, THE DISCUSSIONS WERE DESCRIBED AS "EXHAUSTIVE" IN ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS UNDER NEW TREATY. GWERTZMAN SAID THAT NEITHER VANCE NOR GROMYKO WOULD DISCUSS ANY DETAILS OF THE MEETING, BUT STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE MEETING WAS "BUSINESSLIKE AND SERIOUS." GWERTZMAN NOTED THAT THE MOOD BETWEEN DELEGATIONS AT THE MEETING "SEEMED CORDIAL."

3. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON POST'S GEORGE WILSON, AIR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 177385

FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. LEW ALLEN SAID THAT U.S. PROPOSAL TO HIDE ICBM'S IN A FIELD OF MISSILE SILOS COULD FORCE THE SOVIET UNION "TO GIVE UP TRYING TO TARGET THEM ALL AND TO NEGOTIATE A CEILING ON WARHEADS." ALLEN STATED THAT NEW PLAN WOULD PROVIDE FOR SATISFACTORY VERIFICATION, ALLOWING SOVIET ON-SITE INSPECTION OR VERIFICATION THROUGH SATELLITE, POST REPORTS. THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE LESS EXPENSIVE TO "DIG MORE MISSILE HOLES THAN IT WOULD BE FOR THE SOVIETS TO ADD WARHEADS TO COVER THEM," ADDING THAT THIS MAY IMPROVE CHANCES FOR U.S.-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON LIMITING NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

4. IN A SYNDICATED COLUMN IN WASHINGTON STAR JACK GERMOND AND JULES WITCOVER ASSERT THAT POLITICAL LINKAGE IS INCREASING BETWEEN THE SALT AND THE TRIALS OF TWO SOVIET DISSIDENTS, ALTHOUGH NO POLICY LINKAGE EXISTS. IN ADDITION THE COLUMNISTS POINT OUT THAT AS LONG AS CARTER IS PERCEIVED AS WEAK IN HIS FOREIGN POLICY, SALT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GAIN SENATE RATIFICATION. COLUMN CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT GENERAL PUBLIC HAS DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITIES OF SALT, BUT THEY DO UNDERSTAND

THAT "CARTER HAS BEEN PREACHING MORALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RUSSIANS ARE STICKING IT IN HIS EAR." THAT PERCEPTION IN THE PUBLIC, THE TEXT NOTES, "CAN MAKE SALT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SELL."

5. A BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL SAID THAT SUN HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENTS; AND THAT IT IS BECAUSE IT FAVORS SALT, THAT THE NEWSPAPER "DEPLORES THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL STRATEGY" IN HOLDING SALT NEGOTIATIONS CONCURRENTLY WITH TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. EDITORIAL CONTENDS THAT CARTER MUST RENEW HIS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN "WITH FERVENCY AND MAKE A SERIES OF GESTURES TO SHOW HIS DISPLEASURE WITH SOVIET PROVOCATIONS." THIS MOVE, THE SUN MAINTAINS WILL NOT HURT THE SIGNING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 177385

OF SALT TWO, BUT MAKE DOMESTIC CLIMATE LESS HARSH.

6. WALTER PINCUS OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES, NEUTRON SHELLS CANNOT BE USED FOR THE "MOST WIDELY DEPLOYED NATO ARTILLERY PIECE, THE 155 MM HOWITZER." THE 155 MM VERSION WAS TO BE THE MAJOR PART OF THE NEUTRON ARSENAL. CHRISTOPHER

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